

# MC

AUGUST 2025

## FAREWELL OZZY

A TRIBUTE TO  
OZZY OSBOURNE

**Jimi Hendrix**  
Love Drops Flying  
V Ebony-L



# WOMENS MONTH ENOUGH SAID!

## WOMEN WHO ROCK EPIPHONE

- NANCY WILSON
- JACKIE VENSON
- LAURA COX

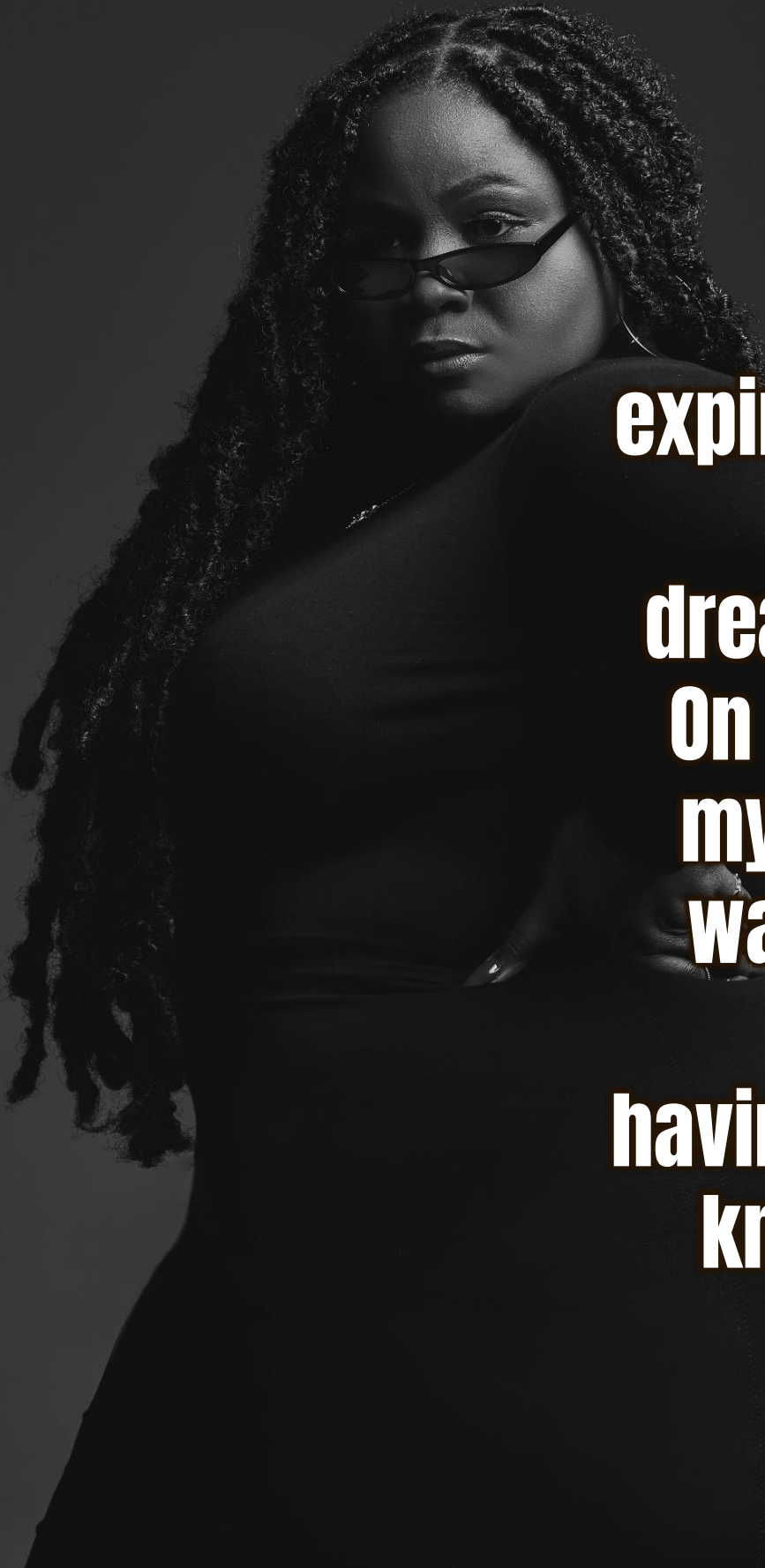
## FEATURING ARTISTS

- ADELE FOUCHE
- CHLOE CLARK
- ALEX COLETT
- SUZANNE COETZEE

MUSIC  
ACADEMY

Next Gen.

SCHOOL  
of ROCK  
PARKTOWN NORTH



**"There's no  
expiration date on  
pursuing my  
dreams in music.  
On the day I take  
my last breath, I  
want to hold my  
head up high,  
having no regrets,  
knowing that at  
least I tried."**

— Busi Lethole

# AUGUST EDITION OF PROAUDIO MUSICGEAR MAGAZINE

Welcome to another exciting edition of Proaudio MG Magazine—your gateway to the heart of South Africa’s music industry and beyond.

If you’re a passionate performer, a gear enthusiast, a producer, a sound engineer, or simply someone who lives and breathes music, we’re thrilled to have you with us.

This issue is packed with inspiration, from exclusive artist interviews and gear reviews to spotlights on rising talent and the latest in music education. We’re celebrating the bold voices, the fresh ideas, and the creative fire that continue to shape the sound of our time.

In honour of Women’s Month, we pay tribute to the incredible women who are breaking barriers, setting stages alight, and creating music that moves us. Inspired by legends like Miriam Makeba, and powered by a new wave of fearless talent, this moment in music belongs to all of you making noise, making change, and making your mark.

Thank you for being a part of this journey, for supporting the scene, and for continuing to believe in the power of sound.

**STAY LOUD. STAY INSPIRED.**  
**Proaudio MusicGear Team**

# MusicGear

Proaudio (+27) 011 608 2099

---

**DIRECTOR** Joss Pack (ext. 17)

---

**SALES MANAGER** Justin Nel (ext. 14)  
**PRO SALES** Gareth J Roberts (ext. 15)

---

**INTERNAL SALES** Ivor Pack (ext. 16)  
**INTERNAL SALES** Matthew Huma (ext. 27)

---

**EXTERNAL SALES** Sarel Ras (ext. 20)  
**EXTERNAL SALES** Richard Theunissen (ext. 21)  
**EXTERNAL SALES** Graham Lowndes (ext. 12)  
**EXTERNAL SALES** Ridge Hutchinson (ext. 26)

---

**ACCOUNTS** Deanne Keiser (ext. 29)  
**ACCOUNTS** Leanne Cohen (ext. 11)  
**ACCOUNTS** Tanya Dos Santos (ext. 11)

---

**SERVICE MANAGER** Pieter Preller (ext. 13)  
**SPARES** Brandon Schmidt (ext. 24)

---

**RECEPTION** Nathon Schmidt (ext. 12)

---

**MARKETING** Teagan Cousins (ext. 19)  
**MARKETING** Daniel J Bungay (ext. 18)

---



This magazine is designed to inform, supply, and provide information relating to the industry that we find ourselves in. Some of the material that we have used is resourced from websites around the world to help bring perspective and insight to your business’ and your lives. Products highlighted and reviewed may or may not be available, if you have any questions relating to the information herein, please contact us.

# Feature Articles

## To All Women in MUSIC

**06** Proaudio MG Magazine celebrates every woman making noise, making waves, and making music—across South Africa and around the world.

## The Women Who Rock Epiphone

**10** These powerhouse performers each bring a unique energy to the stage, yet they share a deep appreciation for the craftsmanship and character of their Epiphone collections.

## A New Generation of Guitar Icons

### ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

- 24** • Adèle Fouché
- 34** • Chloe Clark
- 44** • Alexandra Collett
- 56** • Suzanne Coetzee

## Farewell to the Prince of Darkness

**106** A true icon, trailblazer, and survivor, Ozzy's legacy transcends decades, genres, and generations.

**24**

**Cover Artist**

**Adèle Fouché**

**34**

**Chloe Clark**

**44**

**Alex Collett**

**56**

**Suzanne Coetzee**

*"Great music isn't just heard—it's felt. This month, we celebrate the artists, students, and gear that remind us why we play in the first place."*

# Guitars

## Jimi Hendrix Love Drops Flying V Ebony-L

**18** The Epiphone Jimi Hendrix "Love Drops" Flying V is more than a guitar—it's a legacy.

## Broadway Wine Red

**30** The Epiphone Broadway in Wine Red is a strikingly elegant archtop guitar that pays tribute to the golden age of jazz and big band, while staying versatile enough for modern players.

## Les Paul Standard '60s Translucent Fuchsia

**40** The Epiphone Broadway in Wine Red is a strikingly elegant archtop guitar that pays tribute to the golden age of jazz and big band, while staying versatile enough for modern players.

## SG Standard Pelham Blue Burst

**52** The Gibson SG Standard in Pelham Blue Burst is a bold reimagining of a true rock icon.

## Volante Quilt Ultraviolet Burst

**72** The Kramer Volante Quilt in Ultraviolet Burst is a shredder's dream wrapped in a head-turning finish.

# Guitar Pedals

## Maestro Agena Envelope Filter

**82** How the Maestro Agena Envelope Filter Can Transform Your Playing

# Guitar Amps

## Vintage Looks, Modern Soul

**90** Why the Blackstar DEBUT-30E Might Be the Best Amp You Didn't Know You Needed

# Next Gen.

**SCHOOL  
OF ROCK**  
PARKTOWN NORTH

## ARTIST FEATURED

**66** Busi Lethole  
**68** Gemma Collins  
**70** Sienna Hutchings

**MUSIC  
ACADEMY**

## ARTIST FEATURED

**78** Mellisa Brown  
**86** Monique Orange  
**94** Siphesihle Mabuntane  
**102** Zenanda Sikhutswa

# Keyboards

## Nord Electro 6D 61

**98** There's something magnetic about a Nord keyboard. The bold red shell alone turns heads on stage, but it's what lies beneath that keeps serious players coming back.



# **To All Women IN MUSIC**

**You Are the Sound of Change**

# This Women's Month,

We remember **Miriam Makeba—Mama Africa herself**—whose voice didn't just sing, it roared. She sang for freedom, identity, dignity, and pride. Her music echoed across continents, and her courage lit a path that so many of us now walk. Her legacy lives on in every woman who dares to tell her truth through song.

**Today, you carry that torch.** With every note, every set, every rehearsal, and every verse, you are writing your own chapter in this powerful story. You are shaping the sound of now—and the sound of what's coming next.

## **Proaudio MG Magazine**

celebrates every woman making noise, making waves, and making music—across South Africa and around the world.

If you're writing lyrics in your journal, producing beats in your bedroom, commanding the stage, or building your brand behind the scenes:

**We see you.**

**We hear you.**

**And we want more.**

To all the women on the  
come-up, the ones carving  
their names into this industry.

## KEEP GOING.

You are needed. Your rhythm, your  
message, your energy—it matters.  
Whether you're a DJ, vocalist,  
producer, guitarist, MC, sound  
engineer, or any kind of creative  
—**we love what you're doing.**

## We can't wait to hear what's next.

We know the journey isn't always easy.  
The road can be loud with doubt and  
quiet with support.

### But we're here.

Watching, listening, cheering,  
and celebrating **you.**

**So this month**, and every month, let's raise  
the volume for the women making music that  
moves us.

Let's honour the spirit of Miriam Makeba and  
every woman who came before—and  
celebrate those who are still rising.

**You are not just part of the scene  
—you are the soul of it.**

From all of us at  
***Proaudio MG Magazine***

**Thank you.  
Don't stop.  
We're listening.**



# THE WOMEN WHO ROCK EPIPHONE

Nancy Wilson, Jackie Venson & Laura Cox



Epiphone guitars have long been favoured by players seeking tone, style, and dependability without compromise - and when it comes to female guitarists who've made Epiphone their weapon of choice, three names stand out boldly:

**Nancy Wilson,  
Jackie Venson,  
and Laura Cox.**

These powerhouse performers each bring a unique energy to the stage, yet they share a deep appreciation for the craftsmanship and character of their Epiphone collections.

**Let's dive into the guitars behind  
their legendary sound.**



# NANCY WILSON

– The Queen of Rock with the Fanatic Edge



Known as one-half of the dynamic sister duo behind the legendary rock band Heart, Nancy Wilson has long been a trailblazer for women in rock. In 2021, she teamed up with Epiphone to release the Nancy Wilson Fanatic, her first-ever signature Epiphone electric guitar.

## GEAR SPOTLIGHT

### MODEL:

Epiphone Nancy Wilson Fanatic

### SPECS:

Inspired by the Gibson Nighthawk, it features a lightweight mahogany body, ProBucker™ pickups, a fast-playing neck, and custom Fireburst finish.

### WHY IT ROCKS:


Built for expressive lead and rhythm work, the Fanatic captures Nancy's versatile style - from delicate acoustic intros to blazing electric solos.

Nancy's collection reportedly includes several other Epiphone and Gibson models, making her a true gear icon and tone connoisseur.



# JACKIE VENSON

– Bluesy Soul with a Modern Twist



Jackie Venson has taken the blues world by storm with her expressive playing, powerful vocals, and emotionally rich songwriting. Originally a classically trained pianist, Jackie transitioned to guitar and made it her own. Among her most-loved guitars? Her growing collection of Epiphone Les Paul-style electrics.

## GEAR SPOTLIGHT

### MODEL:

Epiphone Les Paul Standard, Custom-modified Epiphone models

### STYLE:

Jackie often plays single-cut Epiphones finished in bold colours like metallic blue, silverburst, and gold top.

### WHY IT ROCKS:

Her Epiphones deliver thick, warm tones and sustain that's perfect for her blues-rock hybrid style.

Jackie's commitment to expressive tone and dynamic stage presence has helped cement her place as one of the most exciting modern blues guitarists - and her Epiphones are right there with her.



# LAURA COX

– Hard Rock Riffs with a Vintage Heart



Hailing from France and born to British parents, Laura Cox is a self-made YouTube sensation who quickly transitioned to international rock stages. Known for her explosive tone, melodic solos, and fierce playing, Laura proudly rocks high-end Epiphone Les Pauls and semi-hollow models.

## GEAR SPOTLIGHT

### MODEL:

Epiphone Les Paul Custom

### WHY IT ROCKS:

Laura has publicly said she'd "take a high-end Epiphone over a cheap Gibson any day," valuing the balance of quality and reliability the brand offers.

From classic crunch tones to soaring leads, Laura's Epiphones are a core part of her sound, both in studio and on tour.

# Epiphone

## ECJHFV-EB-L

Jimi Hendrix Love Drops Flying V Ebony-L

The Epiphone Jimi Hendrix “Love Drops” Flying V is more than a guitar—it’s a legacy. Inspired by the original 1967 Flying V Hendrix played during his legendary 1969 U.S. tour, this stunning Ebony-finished V is a tribute to one of the most influential guitarists of all time. It features a set of Epiphone ProBucker™ pickups, a slim taper neck, and the unmistakable psychedelic “Love Drops” artwork recreated with care and reverence.

From its vintage aesthetic to modern playability, this is a guitar built to turn heads and melt faces—exactly the kind of vibe Hendrix would approve of.

### A Guitarist’s Perspective on a Psychedelic Powerhouse



## WHY IT'S WORTH IT

As a guitarist, this model delivers the kind of playability and tonal depth you'd expect from an instrument associated with Hendrix. The ProBuckers handle vintage crunch and creamy sustain with ease, while the Flying V body shape offers excellent upper fret access and an unexpectedly balanced playing experience, whether you're standing or seated.

It's also an instant collector's piece. The artwork, tone, and feel combine into something that's not just beautiful but deeply personal. This isn't a gimmick—this is a serious player's guitar with a design that pays homage without compromising performance.

## WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

This axe thrives in classic rock, psychedelic blues, funk, and experimental fusion—but don't be surprised if it pushes you to explore more. The Flying V shape and pickup configuration lend themselves perfectly to expressive lead work, warm cleans, and punchy, articulate gain tones.

Think Hendrix meets modern tone sculpting—perfect for players who live on the edge of tradition and innovation.

*"The Love Drops V feels like Hendrix handed it to you mid-set. It's not just a guitar—it's a time machine, a piece of art, and a sonic weapon all in one."*

*— Session Guitarist  
& Gear Enthusiast*




# WHO WOULD USE IT?

This guitar is ideal for:

- **Hendrix fans** wanting a playable piece of history
- **Vintage tone chasers** looking for something with standout style
- **Stage performers** who value visuals as much as tone
- **Lead guitarists** needing fast neck access and vocal sustain
- **Collectors** looking for an affordable, iconic signature model

# A New Generation of Guitar Icons

These women aren't just playing Epiphones - they're redefining what it means to wield them with purpose, power, and precision. From Wilson's rock legacy to Venson's soul-driven modern blues to Cox's shredding rock 'n' roll, their Epiphone collections are more than gear - they're tools of storytelling.



Epiphone's reputation for high-quality, affordable instruments continues to grow thanks to artists like these, who prove that great tone isn't about price - it's about passion, playability, and presence.

MG

## Cover Feature



proaudio



# Artist Spotlight

## Adèle Fouché – Rock Roots, Soulful Blossoms

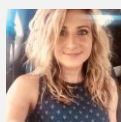
Few artists manage to fuse raw rock energy with spiritual depth the way Adèle Fouché does. Best known as the magnetic lead vocalist and guitarist of the award-winning South African rock band SAARKIE, Adèle has spent nearly 20 years blazing her own trail across the local and international music scenes.

A multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, and storyteller, she continues to captivate audiences with her electric performances and fearless authenticity. Now stepping into a new chapter, Adèle's solo project PEMA reveals a more introspective side—delving into themes of healing, spirituality, and emotional rebirth, all wrapped in a country-folk aesthetic. Whether on stage with a Gibson in hand or composing under the stars, her music remains a deeply personal yet universally resonant offering.

In this exclusive [MusicGear Magazine](#) interview, Adèle opens up about her journey—from a teenage festivalgoer with a purple acoustic guitar to a rock icon turned spiritual songsmith. We talk early influences, creative evolution, industry challenges, and what keeps her inspired as she continues to redefine what it means to be a modern musician in South Africa.



Adèle, when did your love for music first begin, and what inspired you to pick up a guitar and start writing songs?



**My love for music was always there, as a toddler I said I'm going to sing... but as I grew older my love for sport also grew, I had keyboard lessons for a year when I was 10. But hockey and athletics took most of my time.**

**When I was 14 my parents took me to Aardklop, a very big festival in Potchefstroom. I saw people performing. I remember how Rehanna Nel took words from the audience and made them into a song, I remembered how it moved me and the people in the crowd, and that's where I fell in love with music once again.**

**I also wanted to do the same, write songs about the things that move us. When I got back home my parents bought me a beautiful purple acoustic guitar.**

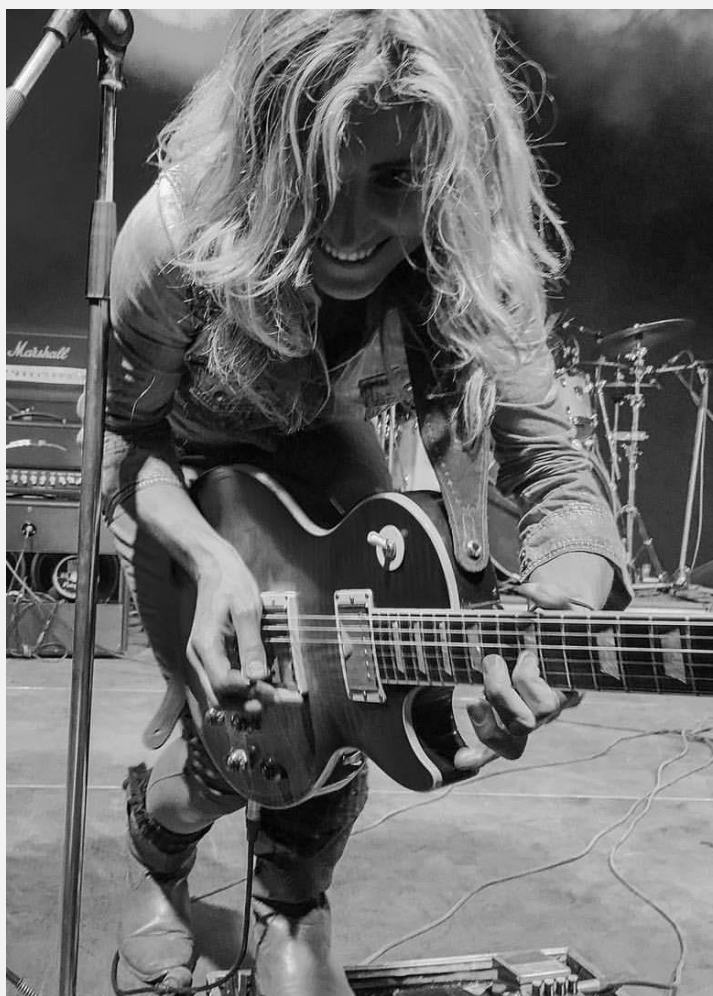


**You're not just a lead vocalist, but a guitarist, ukulele player, and harmonica player. How did you develop your multi-instrumental skills, and what role does each instrument play in your creative expression?**

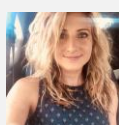


**I had a guitar and vocal teacher to help me, and my friends and cousin were also very helpful. The other instruments were a 'figure it out' on your own journey. Although I believe that music is some magical energy from the universe we channel through the tools that have been given to us (instruments).**

**Each instrument has a different consciousness that evokes some unique melody, harmony, rhythm etc. That is why I try to write songs with different instruments; it's like the color of your palette.**

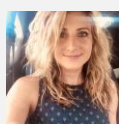


**MG** Your solo project as PEMA has a very spiritual and introspective tone. What inspired this direction, and how does it reflect where you are personally and creatively right now?



**It was in a process of healing of anxiety and addiction that I found spirituality. Through spirituality I found a beautiful path that lead me to create Pema, which means lotus flower. Joy, happiness and creativity flow through me now. I look at life with optimism. I am a happy punk rocker. Because there are so many Pemas in the eastern countries, I added Africa to Pema. It indicates my geographical location and is easier for my fans to find my music.**

**MG** You've chosen Epiphone and Gibson as your go-to guitars. What drew you to these brands, and how do they help shape your sound and identity as an artist?



**I feel that my music is quality, and needs to be played on a quality instrument, and Gibson and Epiphone bring that to me.**

**MG** As someone who's spent nearly two decades in the music scene, how have you grown as a woman and a musician since SAARKIE first formed in 2005?



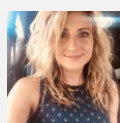
**Well, I'd say it made me more than man. It made me soft and took me back to a time when I still wanted to make the world a better place, not only for the money. But for the love of the message and the journey of creating it.**

**MG** The music industry - especially the rock scene - can be tough for women. What are some challenges you've faced as a female artist, and what advice would you give to young women trying to break into the industry?



**Don't let them tell you what the heck you ought to do. The more authentic something is, the stronger the message is. Nothing speaks like the truth.**

**MG** From international tours to award-winning records, you've experienced so much. What moments stand out to you as the most meaningful or transformative in your career so far?




**The journey of writing the album, Name in the Sky. It was a magical mystical time for me. I was at home most of the time, sleeping in my garden underneath the stars at night. Trying to connect with the everlasting universe through meditation.**



With everything you've achieved, what still excites or drives you forward? What's next for you personally – whether with PEMA, SAARKIE, or beyond?



**I would like to write many more songs, create and collaborate and perform and as much as possible. Oh, and I would love to go and perform in America.**



*“The more  
authentic  
something is, the  
stronger the  
message is.  
Nothing speaks  
like the truth.”*

**– Adèle Fouché**

# Epiphone

## EOBDW-WR

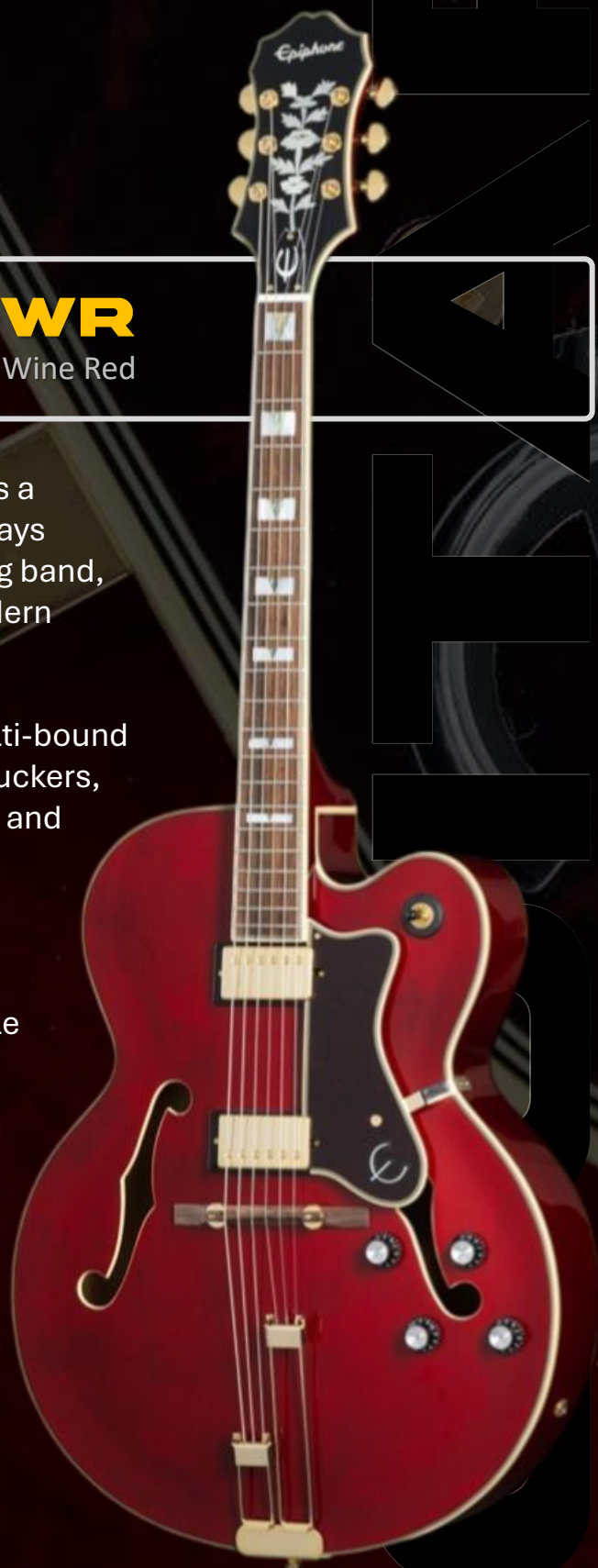
Broadway Wine Red

The Epiphone Broadway in Wine Red is a strikingly elegant archtop guitar that pays tribute to the golden age of jazz and big band, while staying versatile enough for modern players.

With its hollowbody construction, multi-bound maple top, and Alnico Classic™ humbuckers, the Broadway delivers warmth, depth, and plenty of presence.

The rich Wine Red finish and gold hardware bring show-stopping style to the stage or studio, while the long scale length and slim taper neck make it a dream for complex chord voicings, smooth lead lines, and expressive tone.

**A Guitarist's Perspective  
on a Smooth-Talking,  
Stage-Ready Archtop**



## WHY IT'S WORTH IT

From a guitarist's perspective, the Broadway offers that lush, mellow tone you crave in a hollowbody—perfect for clean tones and subtle drive. The Alnico Classic pickups are voiced to let the natural resonance of the body shine through, giving you a wide dynamic range and a voice that sits beautifully in a mix.

You also get premium appointments usually reserved for much more expensive instruments—multi-ply binding, a Frequensator tailpiece, and smooth-as-silk playability. Whether you're comping jazz chords or playing soulful solos, the Broadway gives you the class and clarity to do it justice.

## WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

The Broadway thrives in jazz, blues, soul, R&B, and clean indie/alt settings. Think George Benson, Wes Montgomery, and even modern neo-soul guitarists. With the right amp settings, it can also handle classic rock ballads or lo-fi groove work.

This guitar sings in clean and edge-of-breakup tones—it's less about screaming distortion and more about musical storytelling.



*"The Epiphone Broadway doesn't just play jazz—it plays class. Every note feels like it's meant to be heard, felt, and remembered."*

– Live Guitarist & Archtop Lover



# WHO WOULD USE IT?

Perfect for:

- **Jazz guitarists** wanting smooth, responsive tone
- **Soul and blues players** chasing warm, expressive textures
- **Gigging musicians** who need stage presence and sonic richness
- **Studio musicians** who want a versatile hollowbody voice
- **Collectors and enthusiasts** who love a guitar with vintage charm and real-world value



# Artist Spotlight

## Chloe Clark

– Soul, Stage, and Storytelling

Chloe Clark is the kind of artist who makes music feel like home. A South African-born singer, pianist, and songwriter with a voice as rich as her journey, Chloe's sound blends jazz sophistication with pop soulfulness, all wrapped in heartfelt honesty. From her early beginnings in Weenen to making waves on Idols SA and The Voice SA, her rise has been marked by talent, persistence, and fearless creativity.

Now based in Portugal but still closely tied to the South African music scene, Chloe has shared the stage with legends like Ronan Keating, recorded genre-bending albums like *She Encountered Wonderland*, and built a reputation for delivering emotionally resonant performances—whether behind her signature Nord keyboard or backed by a full orchestra. Her passion is infectious, her storytelling compelling, and her commitment to evolving as an artist is evident in every note she plays.

In this exclusive interview, Chloe reflects on the roots of her musical journey, the influences that shape her sound, and the moments that have defined her path. With exciting collaborations and projects on the horizon, Chloe Clark continues to prove that authenticity and artistry transcend borders.



For those discovering your music for the first time, how would you describe who you are as an artist and the kind of experience listeners can expect from your sound?



**If you listen to my music from over the years you will hear the fusion and influences change through the years! After I studied jazz my music started having more of a swing/jazz style.**



You started singing at a young age and joined your first band at just 11. Can you take us back to those early days and share what first drew you to music?



**It was an amazing privilege to grow up being exposed to music and instruments. Joining bands and playing from young ignited the most amazing love for being on stage and performing. There is something that comes alive in me when I have a beautiful captive audience and from young I have had such amazing experiences and been able to perform for so many different people all over the world.**



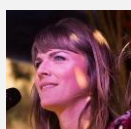
What was the moment you knew you wanted to turn music into a full-time career, and how did that decision shape your path?



**I don't think there was a specific moment that made me decide on music being my full time. As I started playing music, the busier I got and the more I was asked to play so it just evolved into an amazing career!**



Your music blends genres like jazz, soul, and pop so effortlessly - what influences or experiences do you feel drive and define your sound today?



**I think naturally one's sound evolve over the years. My biggest influences would be from studying and playing with other incredible musicians, learning new things through shows and starting to create sounds that excite me and listeners.**



You're often seen performing with a Nord keyboard. How does using the Nord enhance your live shows and support your style as both a pianist and vocalist?



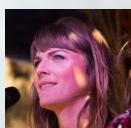
**There is something so pretty about that red pop of the Nord piano! The Nord also gives any musician some street cred in the music circles!**



Photo Credit: Krystyna Magonova



Looking back, what are some of the most memorable or defining moments in your career so far - whether on stage or in the studio?



**Some of the most memorable moments would be singing at the Mother's Day concert in the Durban botanical gardens with the KZN philharmonic orchestra. There is something so special and magical about playing with an orchestra. Another would be having been a back up singer for Ronan Keating while also being backed by the orchestra.**



You've performed on platforms like The Voice SA and Idols SA, as well as internationally. How have those experiences shaped your growth as an artist?




**The most wonderful thing about those platforms are the people and artists that you meet while you're on them! As an artist it helped me meet such great artists from all around the country and when I started doing tours around South Africa I had great network to pull from!**



What's next for Chloe Clark? What can fans look forward to in 2025 and beyond?



**I am currently working with an American trombone player on some of his songs. I have also been writing a little kids album (the things we do when we start producing offspring!) and who know what next will inspire and evolve!**

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark fur stole over a light-colored dress, is seated and playing a red keyboard instrument. She is looking down at her hands with a focused expression. The background is softly blurred, showing a warm, indoor setting with a large window and some artwork on the wall.

*“There is something  
that comes alive in  
me when I have a  
beautiful captive  
audience.”*

– Chloe Clark

# Gibson®

## LPS600-TF

Les Paul Standard '60s Translucent Fuchsia

The Gibson Les Paul Standard '60s in Translucent Fuchsia is where timeless craftsmanship meets bold individuality.

Built to the iconic specs of the 1960s Les Paul, this model combines classic features—like a solid mahogany body with a maple top, slim taper '60s neck, and Burstbucker 61R/61T pickups—with a modern, eye-catching Translucent Fuchsia finish that screams stage presence.

This isn't just another Les Paul—it's a player's guitar with vintage soul and modern swagger, built for those who want to sound legendary and look unforgettable doing it.

**A Guitarist's Perspective  
on Vintage Tone with  
Modern Flair**



## WHY IT'S WORTH IT

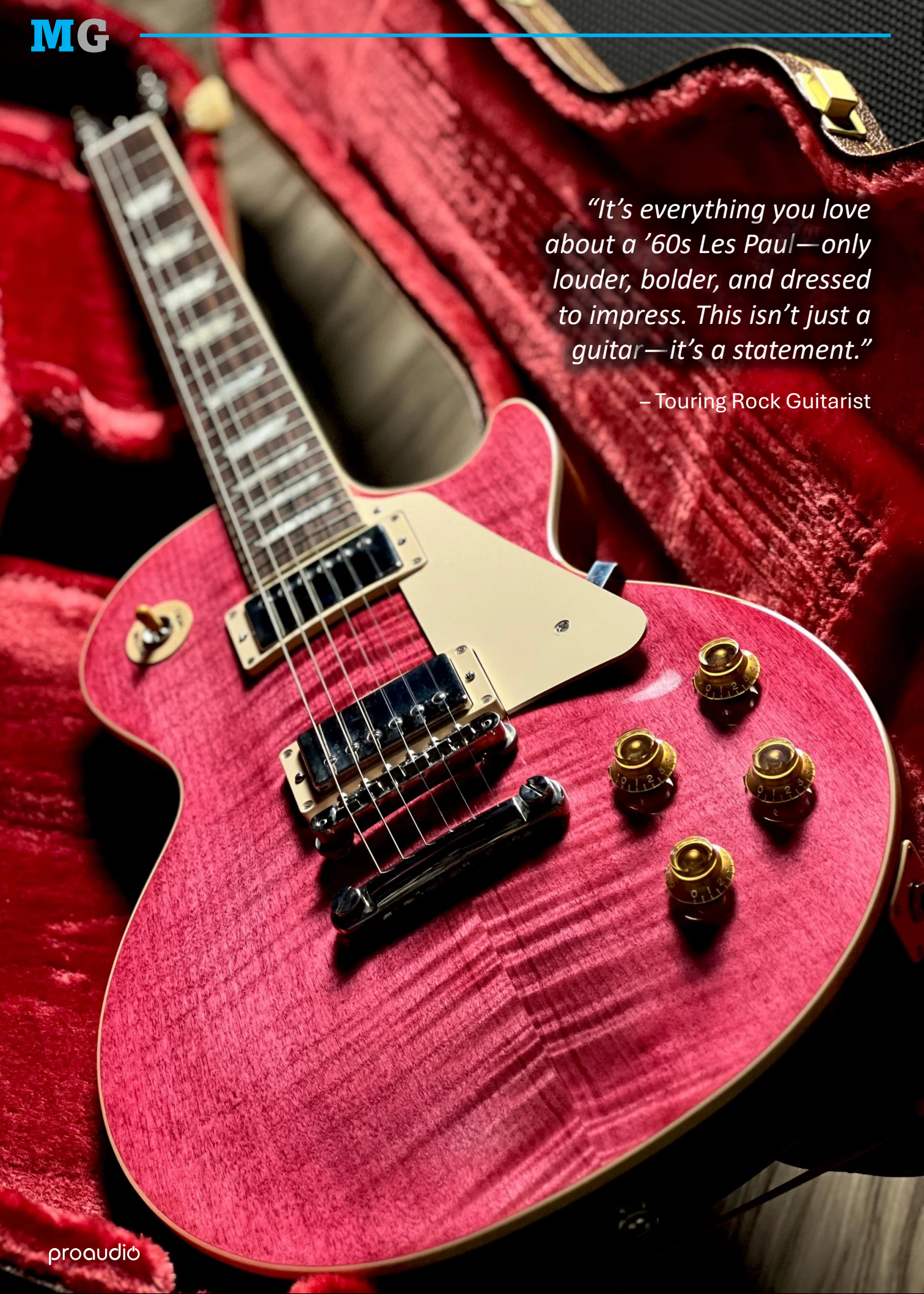
As a guitarist, the moment you strap this on, you feel the history and the power. The slim taper neck is fast, comfortable, and perfectly suited for expressive lead work. The Burstbucker pickups offer a brilliant balance of articulation and vintage growl—whether you're chasing smooth sustain, biting midrange, or singing highs.

Add in premium hardware, vintage keystone tuners, and that lush gloss nitrocellulose finish, and you're getting a top-tier Gibson tone machine that plays as good as it looks. This is a lifetime guitar that delivers every time you pick it up.

## WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

The Les Paul Standard '60s thrives in classic rock, blues, hard rock, soul, and modern indie. It's also a beast in the studio thanks to its dynamic tone range and legendary sustain. Whether you're channeling Jimmy Page, Gary Moore, or your own unique sound, this guitar has the depth and punch to take you there.

Its versatility also makes it suitable for players crossing into jazz-fusion, progressive rock, and alternative genres.



*"It's everything you love  
about a '60s Les Paul—only  
louder, bolder, and dressed  
to impress. This isn't just a  
guitar—it's a statement."*

– Touring Rock Guitarist

# WHO WOULD USE IT?

Ideal for:

- **Guitarists seeking classic Les Paul tone with a unique visual twist**
- **Performers who want stage presence and tonal versatility**
- **Collectors looking for something bold yet rooted in tradition**
- **Studio musicians who need a reliable, rich-sounding solidbody**
- **Rock, blues, and soul players wanting a guitar that sings and sustains**



# Artist Spotlight

## Alexandra Collett

– The Geologist of Groove

From the layers of rock beneath the earth to the layered textures of psychedelic sound, Alexandra Collett is a creative force who bridges the scientific and musical worlds with ease. A Cape Town-based multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and composer, Alexandra's musical journey began in childhood and evolved into a lifelong pursuit of expression and connection. Trained in classical vocals and drums, she's gone on to master guitar, bass, piano, and percussion—bringing a rare versatility to every band she touches.

Currently fronting her own retro-rock band Stonehouse, Alexandra also performs with surf-rock legends Krakatoa, indie-folk artist Brandon Grant, and blues-folk-rock ensemble DreamEater. Her signature sound is steeped in the warm, mellow tone of her beloved 1975 Vintage Gibson L6-S—a guitar that not only shapes the Stonehouse identity, but also mirrors Alexandra's deep respect for tone, tradition, and artistic integrity.

In this interview, Alexandra reflects on her roots, the challenges of being a woman in the music industry, her dynamic role in Cape Town's evolving music scene, and how her scientific mindset flows into her compositions. With her feet firmly in the soil and her head in the clouds, Alexandra is carving out a sound that's as grounded as it is visionary.



Your musical journey began at a very young age - what was the moment you knew music would always be part of your life, even alongside your work in geology and environmental science?



**This is a tricky question to answer. The short answer is music has always been a big part of my life. When I look back to my very early childhood I was always surrounded by music. From gathering around the piano with my gran to singing my lungs out in the back of the car with my dad and siblings.**

One of my earliest memories of making my own song was when I was about 3. Playing with my dolls I sat there and started coming up with my own lyrics and melody, trying to imitate the classic rock songs I heard on my dad's Radio.

My point is music was always around, it never left. However, one of the more defining moments was when I was about 10 years old. We had an assembly at school where the new drum teacher did a showcase of what the drums could do and I was blown away. The very next week I started drum lessons and have been playing ever since.

**Once I got a taste of what music could do for me, from a healing perspective, I never looked back and set my sights on sharing the gift of music with anyone willing to listen.**



Having been part of several bands and exploring different instruments, how has this versatility shaped your approach to songwriting and composition, especially with your band Stonehouse?



**Having the opportunity to explore various instruments has given me a lot of**

**freedom to create music in such a way that doesn't limit me. It also comes in handy when I am trying to communicate my musical vision to the other band members. In terms of song writing and composing it has given me an understanding of how different instruments and their frequency ranges respond to each other and how they fit into the bigger picture of the whole instead of viewing them as separate, much like an ecosystem.**



Stonehouse has a distinct retro feel - how did the sound of your 1975 Vintage Gibson L6-S influence the direction and identity of the band's music?



**My Journey with the Gibson has been a short one. I have only been playing the Gibson for just over a year now. Its sleek look and feel is a perfect fit for my small hands which has allowed me to play with ease and has helped me develop my guitar skills in such a way that is bringing me closer and closer to the retro sound that Stonehouse is after.**

**The Gibson has had less of an influence on the direction of the music but rather has enabled me to bring my musical visions I have to life. Having the Gibson also keeps me motivated to play because I love its tone and it is so comfortable to play. The Gibson has also allowed me to refine the bands tone and identity through its vintage look and sound.**



**Your 1975 Vintage Gibson L6-S has become a defining part of the Stonehouse sound - what drew you to this specific guitar, and how does it inspire or shape your playing and songwriting style?**



**Many of my guitar heroes and musical interest growing up played Gibson guitars so naturally I was drawn to the brand but also the classic defining warm tone of Gibson guitars.**

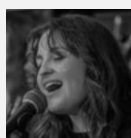
**I like a mellower and well-rounded tone and so when I heard the guitar I knew that it was a match made in heaven. My lead guitarist, Jared Gordon, is also heavily inspired by Gerry Garcia from the Grateful dead who was known to play Gibson guitars. So we try pay homage to our musical inspirations by staying true to 60's/70's psychedelic rock sound, which the Gibson has allowed me to do.**

Photo Credit: Daina Shanks





You're active in multiple bands including Krakatoa, Brandon Grant's ensemble, and DreamEater - how do you manage the creative demands of each project while still maintaining your own voice as an artist?



The way I see it is that music and the process of creating music is not a demand, it is just a way of life for me. Music is so integrated into my daily life that I don't see it as something that is demanding. The hardest part about being in multiple projects is managing my time and making sure that there are no clashes with gigs and rehearsals.

The way I manage to combat this is to have dedicated weekly days for each band which seems to work out. In terms of managing my creative outputs I am lucky enough to be able to practice most days due to my current Job at Bothners, this makes it easier to stay constantly engaged in the music process.

All of the bands I am in seem to value my creativity and perspective on music and so I have never felt like my voice as artist has ever been compromised.

**I have also always been upfront with the rest of my bands that Stonehouse is and will always be my main priority and they honour and respect that.**

**With that being said I put equal amounts of energy into each project because I like to think of myself as a professional in the industry and want to make sure that any music I make or contribute to is of a professional standard. Being in so many project also helps me to grow my voice as an artist as I gain inspiration from them.**



Being a woman in music, especially in genres like rock and surf rock, have you faced any unique challenges, and what advice would you give young women starting out in the scene?



**I think that it is pretty well known that the music industry has always been male dominated, and so I wouldn't call the challenges I've faced unique. I would say that the challenges I have faced are faced by all woman in the industry. Often times people will doubt you and your professionalism based on the fact that you are a woman and so there are missed opportunities just based on your gender**

However, there is a shift happening, especially in South Africa's rock and punk scenes, with bands like Cistamatic, Lucy Kruger and the Lost boys, Heart Machine, Lost Youth, We kill cowboys, and Kayla the Crow – to name a few, where we are seeing more and more woman taking lead roles and showing the broader community that we too are on the same calibre as our brothers in the scene and should be given the same level of respect.

To any young woman starting out in the scene I would say that you should find your community and band together, support each other and keep striving for the best. I would also advise the younger woman in music to stay true to their vision and don't let the male dominated outlook influence your choices. If you aren't taken seriously don't let it get you down, keep doing what you do and working towards being the best musician you can be.

Finally, I would say that music shouldn't be a competition let's do our best to support our fellow woman in the scene and curate a safe and comfortable space for us to express ourselves. We can only do this if we remain open and kind to one another.



Photo Credit: Carm d'Unienville



The Cape Town music scene is vibrant and diverse - how has being based there influenced your musical direction and the kinds of collaborations you pursue?



**It is true, the Cape Town music scene is booming and that is the very reason I**

**moved here in December 2023. My main priority was to pursue music and in less than two years I am playing in 4 bands, joined the Muizenberg community choir (Heartsong Collective – headed by Lynne Paulson) and am partners with Daina Shanks to help her run Melody and Makers which is a platform to get all creatives together to celebrate the arts.**

**Being in Cape Town has allowed me to fulfil all my music desires and more. It is a great city with lots of opportunity.**



Looking ahead, what's next for you creatively - whether with Stonehouse or as a solo artist - and what message do you hope your music communicates to listeners?

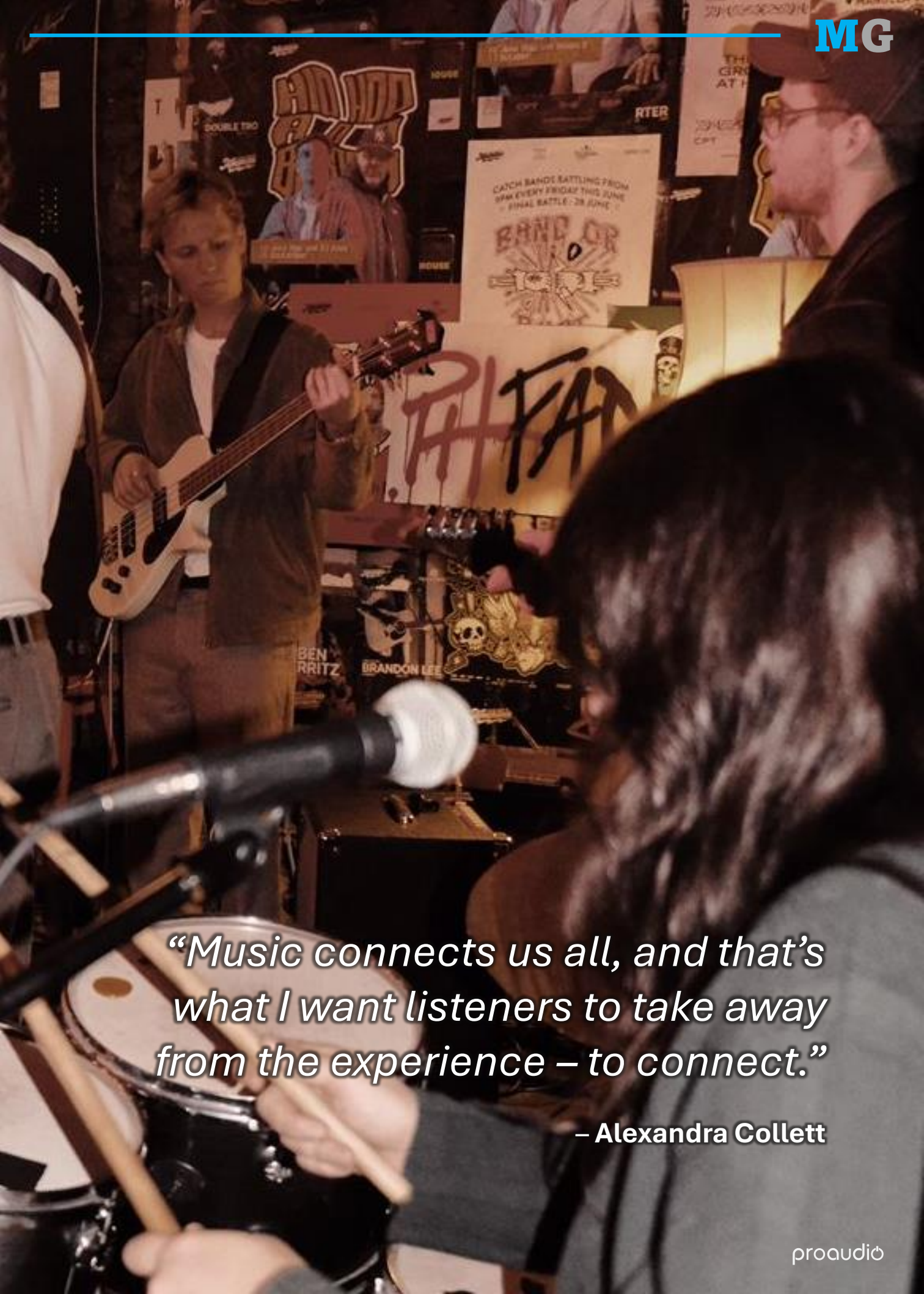


**My next steps are to record with all my various bands and to perform at music festivals across the country and hopefully abroad. There is no one thing or message I want listeners to take away from the music I create.**

**My point of view as an artist often has an overarching theme of the embeddedness of Nature and humans and also speaks to current world topics.**

**My goal for my music is to express myself authentically and also just to have fun and not take it so seriously. Music connects us all, and that's what I want listeners to take away from the experience – to connect.**

**Whether that's to the music itself or the lyrics or even the other people attending shows then I would think myself successful.**

A photograph of a musician playing a white bass guitar on stage. The musician is wearing a brown jacket and is looking down at the instrument. In the background, there are several posters, including one for 'BAND OR' and another for 'CATCH BANDS BATTLING FROM 8PM EVERY FRIDAY THIS JUNE FINAL BATTLE - 28 JUNE'. A large, stylized 'PITFAN' logo is visible on a wall. In the foreground, a microphone and a drum are partially visible, suggesting a live performance setting.

*“Music connects us all, and that’s what I want listeners to take away from the experience – to connect.”*

– Alexandra Collett

# Gibson

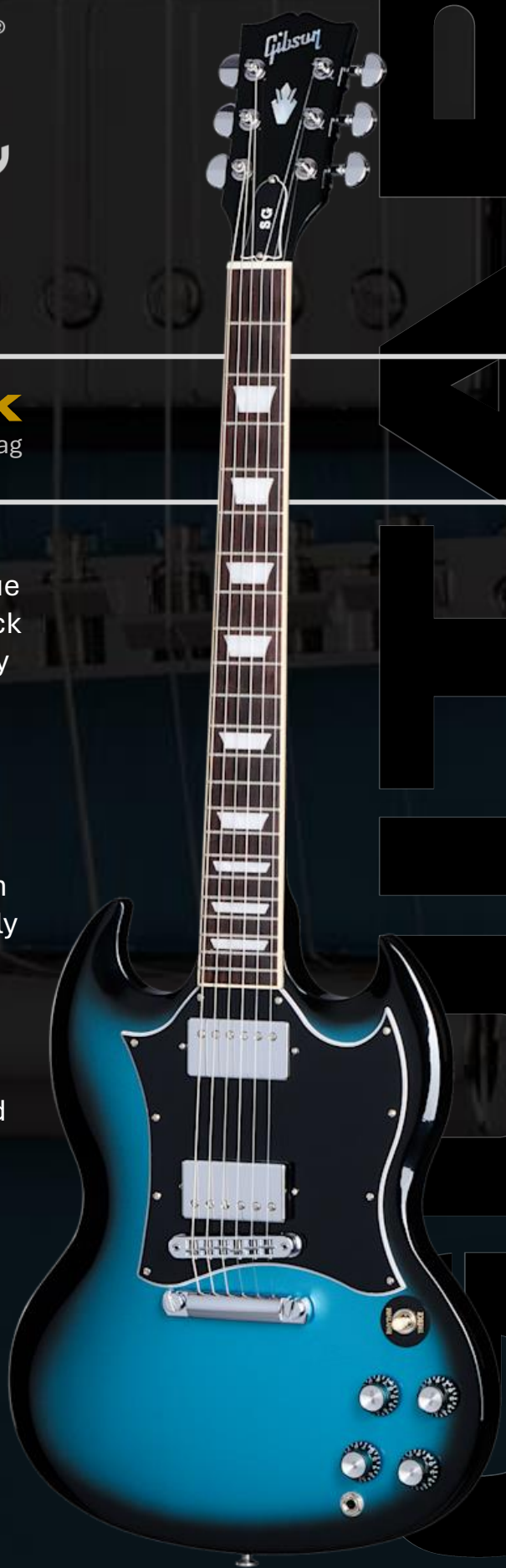
## SG500-PK

SG Standard Pelham Blue Burst+Bag

The Gibson SG Standard in Pelham Blue Burst is a bold reimagining of a true rock icon. Featuring a lightweight mahogany body, slim taper neck, and twin 490R/490T humbuckers, this SG delivers the raw, biting tone and slick playability that defined a generation. The finish? A stunning Pelham Blue Burst that gives vintage vibes a modern twist—cool, expressive, and undeniably eye-catching.

Complete with a premium padded gig bag, this SG is built for players who want to move fast, sound massive, and look sharp doing it.

**A Guitarist's Perspective  
on Sleek Speed and  
Classic Bite**



## WHY IT'S WORTH IT

From a guitarist's point of view, the SG is all about access, comfort, and punch—and this model delivers on all fronts. The double cutaway gives effortless upper-fret access, while the slim taper neck is a dream for fast leads and riffing. The 490 humbuckers provide classic Gibson tone: warm lows, punchy mids, and just the right amount of snarl.


Combine all that with rock-solid build quality, Grover tuners, and that stunning finish, and you're getting an instrument that punches far above its price tag.

## WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

This SG Standard is a natural fit for rock, punk, grunge, blues, and even metal. Whether you're cranking power chords, sliding through solos, or digging into gritty rhythm work, the SG responds with clarity and bite.

Its lighter weight and balanced tone also make it surprisingly versatile for indie, garage, and even some modern funk and pop applications.





*“The SG is like a muscle car with wings—lightweight, lightning-fast, and built to roar. The Pelham Blue Burst gives it even more swagger.”*

– Studio Session Guitarist

# WHO WOULD USE IT?

Perfect for:

- Players who want vintage tone in a sleek, fast-playing body
- Guitarists needing a reliable stage or touring axe
- SG lovers looking for a standout finish
- Intermediate to pro players wanting Gibson pedigree without the LP weight
- Anyone who grew up on AC/DC, Sabbath, or wants that unmistakable SG growl



# Artist Spotlight

## Suzanne Coetzee

– Glitter, Grit & Country Grit

Suzanne Coetzee is a powerhouse of contrasts—a corporate professional by day and a commanding performer by night. Based in Cape Town, she’s the dynamic frontwoman of The Band Suzy and the Road House Country Band, known for her larger-than-life voice, magnetic stage presence, and her unforgettable glitter guitar. Whether she's belting out pop-rock anthems or channeling modern country flair, Suzanne brings an energy that lights up stages across the Western Cape.

Her musical journey has been one of fearless evolution. From singing in school choirs to fronting tribute shows and collaborating with South African icons, she’s constantly reinventing herself—now adding rhythm guitar and keys to her repertoire. With a signature sound that fuses country, rock, pop, and Afrikaans hits, Suzanne delivers performances that are vibrant, versatile, and full of soul.

In this candid interview, Suzanne shares how she balances a high-pressure career with her passion for music, what drew her to the sparkling Epiphone Les Paul Muse, and what fans can expect as she begins to craft her own original sound. If you’ve ever doubted whether it’s possible to do it all—Suzanne Coetzee is living proof that you can.



You've gone from singing in school choirs to performing at major venues - what do you think sparked your love for live performance the most?



**What really sparked my love for live performance was the collaboration with other musicians and artists. There's something incredibly inspiring about creating and sharing that energy with others. When I step on stage, my passion takes over and my stage persona comes to life—it's a whole different side of me. Offstage I'm one person, but when the lights come on, it's like I unlock a different energy entirely.**



The transition from lead vocals to playing keys and now rhythm guitar is impressive - what inspired you to pick up new instruments, and how has it influenced your stage presence?



**A bit of background—our band originally didn't have a keyboard player, and we really felt the absence of those layers in certain songs. My husband challenged me to give it a try, basically throwing me in the deep end—and I thought, why not?**

**Challenge accepted! The same thing happened with rhythm guitar. We realized some songs needed that extra guitar texture, and picking it up was definitely one of my biggest challenges so far.**

**My husband has been a huge inspiration, constantly encouraging me to push the boundaries of my talent. I truly believe that if you've been given a gift, you should use it to its fullest.**

**Learning new instruments has completely transformed my stage presence—it adds depth to the performance and keeps things dynamic. Plus, the audience stays engaged because they never quite know what to expect from me next!**



Tell us more about your Epiphone Les Paul Muse - what drew you to it, and how does it complement your style and sound?



**I had a specific price bracket and I first looked at Fenders, but it did not complement my sound or style of playing. I wanted something that plays easy and I got that from the Epiphone Les Paul Muse.... but mostly because of the colour.**

My husband and I went on a mission to find the perfect electric guitar for my new role. Of course, I had a few must-haves. First, it had to be pinkish and glittery (because, pink is life, and glitter is magic).

Second, it had to feel easy and natural to play. And third, the sound had to be versatile — from country twang to pop punch, I needed it all. And thirdly - it had to match my funky stage personality.

We searched high and low until, WOW, I laid eyes on the Epiphone Modern Les Paul Muse Electric Guitar in Purple Passion Metallic. Forget about specs for a second — the color had me hooked (and yes, I'm totally not kidding here!).

I plugged it in, played a few notes, and wow — the feel was just perfect, and the sound? Exactly what we needed. Every time I take that guitar on stage, it's like I'm floating on clouds. The crowd loves it too — I get compliments all the time, and it never fails to turn heads.

Honestly, this guitar is hands-down one of the best investments I've made in my music career. It's like a sparkly extension of myself, and every gig feels a little more magical with it by my side.





You've covered a wide range of artists from Brandi Carlile to Bon Jovi and Shania Twain. How do you choose which songs make it into your setlists?



**We are a Pop Rock band. I'm drawn to popular songs from different eras, but the key is**

**finding tracks that suit my vocal style and work well with the band. I love mixing older classics with current hits to keep the setlist fresh and exciting.**

**Crowd connection is also huge—songs need to resonate with the audience. I've had great feedback from fellow musicians and listeners who appreciate the variety in our sets. They often say it's refreshing because you're not just hearing the same songs every other band plays.**



Performing with both The Band Suzy and the new Road House Country Band, how do the two bands differ in energy, sound, or approach?



**The Band Suzy and Road House Country Band are two completely different**

**projects, each with its own unique vibe, energy, and sound.**

**A while back, I also performed in a tribute show called On the Road with Shania Twain & Keith Urban, which had its own distinct flavor as well. For that, I fully stepped into character—dressing as Shania and delivering a well-rehearsed, country-style performance that paid homage to both artists.**

**With Road House Country Band, the sound leans more toward rock and pop country, with a modern edge. It's still very much performance-driven, but with a fresh, contemporary twist in terms of stage presence and styling.**

**Thanks to my versatile voice, I can naturally lean into that country accent when needed, which really brings the genre to life. Each project allows me to explore different parts of my musical personality.**



As a woman balancing a corporate career and a growing presence in the music industry, what have been some of the biggest challenges you've faced - and how have you navigated them?



**As women, we really are natural multitaskers—we juggle a lot, and sometimes it does feel like we're Superwomen.**

**But let's be real: balancing a full-time corporate job, being a mom and wife, and building a music career is anything but easy. There are definitely challenges—long days, limited time, and the constant need to switch gears between roles.**

**It takes real passion, commitment, and motivation. When you love something deeply, you make time for it. That's what fuels me to learn new songs, organize rehearsals, and book gigs. It's not just about me—being part of a band means respecting everyone else's time and showing up for the team.**

**Sure, there are days when I come home exhausted, knowing I still have practice ahead. But the moment we start playing, the energy shifts. Music becomes my escape, my reset. Some people read or take walks—I sing. And in those moments, it all feels worth it.**



**You've shared the stage with legends like Juanita du Plessis and Demi-Lee Moore - what moments from those shows have stuck with you the most?**



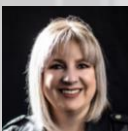
**What really sticks with me is the shared passion—everyone on that stage is there because they truly love music and performing. There's something incredibly powerful about that unity.**

**Collaborating with artists like Juanita du Plessis and Demi-Lee Moore reminded me that, no matter how big the stage is, the goal is always the same: to create a show the audience will love. It's so fulfilling when everyone comes together, each playing their part, to deliver something unforgettable.**





You mentioned working on original music - can you give us a sneak peek into the themes or sounds fans can expect from your upcoming releases?



**My first original is an Afrikaans pop song with a hint of country flair—it's a blend that feels authentic to who I am as an artist. Looking ahead, I'm continuing to explore that country-inspired sound with more original tracks in the works, especially tailored to the style of Road House Country Band as we move toward becoming an original act.**

**While The Band Suzy focuses more on covers, the versatility of the group allows us to include original material in our sets too, which keeps things fresh and exciting.**



*“Music becomes my escape, my reset.  
Some people read or take walks—I sing.  
And in those moments, it all feels worth it.”*

– Suzanne Coetzee



SHOTBOX

PARKTOWN NORTH



Situated in the heart of Johannesburg, School of Rock Parktown North is the latest addition to South Africa's growing rock-based music education movement. Opened in November 2024, this dynamic school offers a performance-driven approach to learning—empowering students of all ages to master instruments, vocals, and stagecraft through real band experiences.

From young beginners in the *Little Wing* program to teens in *Performance* groups and adults in *AllStars*, students learn by doing—rehearsing and performing in live shows that build confidence, creativity, and musical skill.

With expert instructors, a vibrant musical community, and a passion for rock at its core, School of Rock Parktown North is where future musicians come to find their sound and shine on stage.



# A Journey of Passion and Perseverance

This inspiring vocalist's story is one of determination, faith, and the courage to chase dreams at any age. Drawn to music by powerhouse artists like Beyoncé, she admires the discipline, authenticity, and artistry that define true performers.

Now a student at the School of Rock, she's embracing every opportunity to grow, proving that there's no expiration date on passion. Her journey is a reminder to never let doubt—or age—stand in the way of pursuing what you love.



### **Who is your favourite female artist, and how has she influenced your journey in music?**

My favourite female artist has to be Beyonce. She has the full package of what it takes to be a sensational artist. I grew up listening to her music since the days she was in her girl group Destiny's Child. Seeing how she has evolved as an artist over the years has been such a great inspiration. Two qualities that I look up to about Beyonce is her exceptional work ethic and her delivery of her live performances. These two things have contributed tremendously to her success.

Her dedication to her craft is evident in her body of work, and her performances are always high-quality, entertaining and just an experience of a lifetime. It is no mistake that she is regarded as one of the best in business. I admire her so much for letting her success do the talking whenever people try to downplay her talents. As a female artist, always keep all these qualities she has in mind as I embark on my music journey. What's the saying again by Michael Jackson? "The greatest education in the world is watching the masters at work". No truer words have ever been spoken!

### **What does being a young woman in music mean to you?**

As a 34-year-old woman, I don't really feel like I'm a "young woman" in terms of the music industry. I actually think I'm doing this music thing much later in life than the typical female musician.

I'm not going to lie, sometimes I do wonder if my "time has gone" but then I knock some sense back into my head and remind myself that there's no expiration date on singing.

I remind myself that there's no expiration date on pursuing my dreams in music. After all, my passion for music and My love for performing are the reason why I joined the School of Rock. These reminders keep me going despite the negative noise that sometimes floods my mind. There are plenty of singers in various genres who pursued their dreams when they were well into their 30s and 40s, and are now touring for a niche audience. And that is perfectly fine because at the end of the day they are doing what they love.

So I am constantly reminding myself that age is really but a number when it comes to pursuing my dreams. But also, as someone of faith, I know God put this dream in my heart so my part is to at least try. On the day I take my last breath on this earth and my life flashes before my eyes, I can hold my head up high, having no regrets, knowing that at least I tried.

### **What would you say to a woman who's thinking about picking up an instrument for the first time?**

As someone who wants to play a guitar myself, I would say that they should definitely go for it! You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. I just think as a musician, one should at least play one instrument to get a better understanding of music as a whole. But yeah, do it!

# Finding Her Voice Through Bass

At just 15 years old, Gemma is already making her mark as a confident and creative young musician. Inspired by legendary bassist Tina Weymouth, Gemma picked up the bass guitar and found her own space in music—a space where she can express herself, build confidence, and shape her artistic voice.

With a love for learning and a bold spirit, she represents the next generation of women reshaping the music scene, one note at a time.



**Who is your favourite female artist, and how has she influenced your journey in music?**

My favourite female artist is Tina Weymouth. She was actually the reason for me deciding to learn to play the bass guitar.

**What does being a young woman in music mean to you?**

For me, music means having a space that allows me to build confidence and assert my creative vision.

**What would you say to a woman who's thinking about picking up an instrument for the first time?**

I would say go for it as learning to play an instrument is creative and fun.



# Power, Positivity, and Performance

Sienna may be young, but her passion for music runs deep. Inspired by Demi Lovato's strength and authenticity, she finds empowerment through performance—especially when singing powerful songs like Heart Attack and Confident.

For Sienna, music is more than just sound; it's a way to express herself, build confidence, and share joy with others. Whether in rehearsal or on stage, she brings gratitude, courage, and a fearless love for the art.



**Who is your favourite female artist and how has she influenced your journey in music?**

Demi Lovato.

Firstly, I love her voice, but most of all she inspires me because her songs encourage us to be who we are - don't pretend to be someone else and be kind along the way.

My favourite songs are Heart Attack and Confident (the Rock version). These songs make me feel strong and happy on stage, they also include high and low notes that don't crack my voice.

**What does being a young woman in music mean to you?**

Even though I am young, through music, I can really express myself. When I sing I feel like I can do anything, even getting on a stage in front of a big audience. It is a privilege to be able to do this. I am so grateful.

**What would you say to a woman who is thinking about picking up an instrument for the first time?**

I would say go for it – it's been the best experience! If you want to perform, follow your dreams, no one is stopping you!





## KVOQHH-UVB

Volante Quilt Ultraviolet Burst

The Kramer Volante Quilt in Ultraviolet Burst is a shredder's dream wrapped in a head-turning finish. Built for high-performance players, it features a mahogany body with a figured quilt maple veneer, bolt-on maple neck, and fast 12"-16" compound radius ebony fretboard. Equipped with dual Alnico 5 humbuckers and a Floyd Rose 1000 series tremolo, this guitar screams with tone, sustain, and precision.

And that Ultraviolet Burst? It's pure stage presence—bold, modern, and impossible to ignore.

**A Guitarist's Perspective  
on Speed, Shred, and  
Show-Stopping Style**



## WHY IT'S WORTH IT

As a guitarist, the Volante offers that unmistakable Kramer feel: lightweight, fast, and ferocious. The compound radius fretboard makes both rhythm and lead work a breeze, while the Floyd Rose trem system lets you dive-bomb and scream without fear of losing tuning stability.

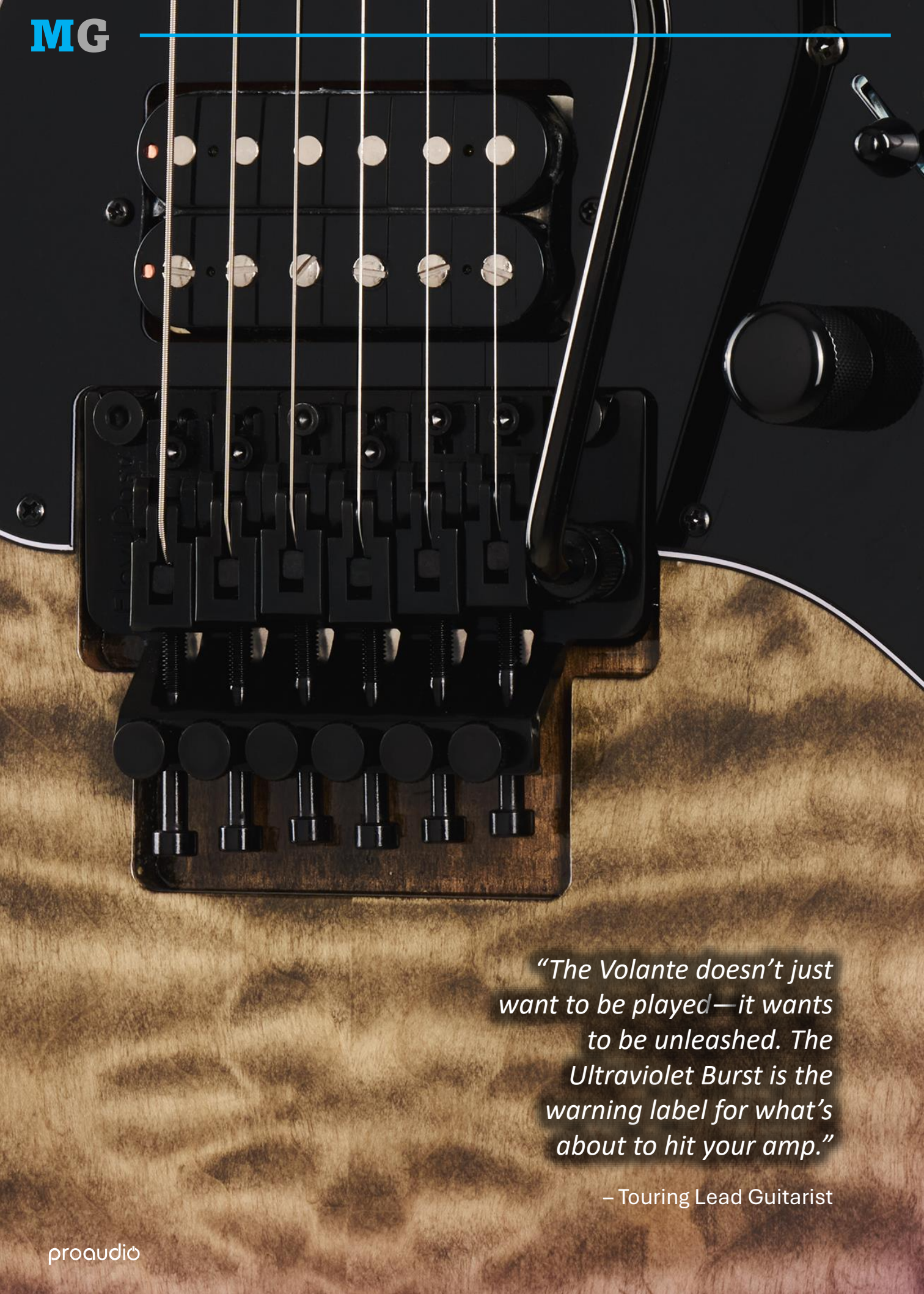
Whether you're soloing at lightning speed or grooving through tight riffage, the Kramer Volante feels like an extension of your hands. Plus, you're getting pro-level hardware and tonewoods at a price that makes this axe a serious value proposition.

## WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

This is a natural weapon for hard rock, metal, shred, progressive, and modern fusion. The hot-output humbuckers are tight and articulate with distortion, while still warm and expressive when dialed back. It's also well-suited for instrumental rock and technical players who demand control and clarity.

If your playing leans aggressive, flashy, or precise, the Volante fits like a glove.





*"The Volante doesn't just want to be played—it wants to be unleashed. The Ultraviolet Burst is the warning label for what's about to hit your amp."*

– Touring Lead Guitarist



## WHO WOULD USE IT?

Perfect for:

- **Modern rock and metal guitarists seeking high-gain tone and speed**
- **Shredders and soloists looking for effortless upper-fret access**
- **Stage performers who want bold looks with serious bite**
- **Players upgrading to their first pro-level tremolo-equipped guitar**
- **Fans of '80s-inspired tone with a contemporary twist**



A Division of Kwena Group Holdings

**MUSIC**  
**ACADEMY**

GED • Music Production • Studio





## A New Era Begins

Cape Town's music scene is turning up the volume with the launch of **Kwena Music**—a powerful collective uniting **M&M Music Academy**, **Kwena Artist Management**, **MM Recordings**, and the **Pro DJ Academy**.

Together, they offer a complete artist ecosystem, combining education, management, recording, and performance training under one roof.

Based in Sunningdale, **M&M Music Academy** is a fully accredited institution offering practical, industry-focused programmes in music and musical theatre. Known for nurturing raw talent into polished performers, M&M is the perfect foundation for this next-level collaboration.

With Kwena Music, students and emerging artists can now access every step of the professional journey—from classroom to stage, studio to spotlight.

## MEET THE FUTURE

### Spotlight on M&M Students

In celebration of this new era and Women's Month, *MusicGear Magazine* is proud to feature four rising stars from **M&M Music Academy**:

**MELISSA BROWN**,  
**MONIQUE ORANGE**,  
**SIPHESIHLE MATUBANE**,  
and **ZENANDA SIKHUTSWA**.

Each student represents the incredible potential, passion, and promise that M&M and Kwena Music are bringing to life.

Stay tuned as we introduce these bright talents and share their stories, dreams, and the sounds that are shaping South Africa's musical future.



Melissa Brown

Where Emotion  
Meets Rhythm





**MELISSA BROWN** is a South African artist whose musical journey gracefully bridges the soulful elegance of piano and the pulse-pounding energy of electronic beats.

A classically trained pianist who later stepped into the DJ world, Melissa's performances are defined by one core thread: **emotional connection**. Whether she's playing jazz ballads with delicate touch or igniting a dance floor with genre-blending DJ sets, she brings authenticity and heart to every note.

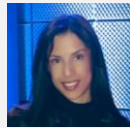
Melissa first fell in love with the piano at the age of eight and rekindled her passion through formal training at **M&M Music Academy**, where she's since joined the jazz band and performed at major student showcases.

Today, she's known across South Africa for her captivating presence—whether on the keys or the decks—sharing stages at top venues and festivals.

In this interview, Melissa opens up about her return to music education, her dual identity as pianist and DJ, and how she continues to defy expectations and inspire others with her artistry.



Your journey with piano began at a young age - what drew you back to formal lessons later in life, and how has your playing evolved since joining the M&M Music Academy?



**I've loved the piano since I was 8 years old. I took lessons throughout my school years, which gave me a solid musical foundation. After high school, I continued playing casually, but my passion for music only grew deeper over time, and I reached a point where I wanted to take my playing more seriously again.**

**Joining M&M Music Academy was initially about brushing up on my technique and improving my theory knowledge. But once I started, I was blown away by the level of excellence at the school.**

**The facilities, technology, and supportive learning environment have been incredible.**

**My teacher, Charlene, has played a big role in helping me refine my playing, and I've had the opportunity to participate in the annual student concert and join their jazz band, which has been a dream. The growth I've experienced, musically and personally, has been far greater than I expected.**

**MG** As both a pianist and a DJ, how do you approach crafting a set or performance that truly connects with your audience?



**Connection is always the goal, whether I'm behind the piano or behind the decks. As a DJ, I rarely stick to a pre-planned set, I might have a general direction in mind, but I love to read the crowd in real time and choose tracks based on their energy and response. I think that's when the magic happens, when the music becomes a conversation between you and the audience.**

The same goes for piano. It's about being present and letting the music serve the moment, whether that means playing a soulful jazz ballad or shifting into something more vibrant and upbeat.

**MG** What are some of your favourite pieces or genres to play on piano, and how do you balance the emotive depth of your piano work with the high-energy demands of DJing?



**I love playing jazz ballads like Misty and modern R&B pieces like If I Ain't Got You.**

**These kind of songs tell a story and allow me to connect on a deeper level, and really feel what I'm playing.**

**On the other hand, DJing demands a slightly different energy; faster tempo, rhythmic, and designed to make people move. The contrast might seem big, but it feels natural to me. Adjusting to my environment is all part of the musical journey.**





As a woman navigating both the live music and DJ scenes in South Africa, what challenges have you faced, and how do you hope to inspire other women pursuing careers in music?



**I feel incredibly fortunate that my experience in the industry has been mostly positive. While it's true that the DJ scene can be male-dominated, I've never let that define me or hold me back.**

**I don't approach music with a mindset of competition, but rather growth. My biggest challenge, honestly, is carrying heavy gear to gigs, and thankfully my fiancé is always there to help when he can!**

**My hope is that other women in music see that it's possible to carve out your own space by staying authentic, working hard, and trusting your gift. You don't have to wait for permission, if you love it, pursue it! Music is a gift and the world deserves to hear your art.**



***“You don't have to wait for permission—if you love it, pursue it. Music is a gift, and the world deserves to hear your art.”***

– Melissa Brown



# MAESTRO AGENA ENVELOPE FILTER - Funk, Fusion, And The Unexpected

*A Guitarist's Take on a Pedal  
That Feels Like a  
Conversation with Your  
Strings*

## Bend the Rules

**How the Maestro Agena  
Envelope Filter Can  
Transform Your Playing**

Guitarists are constantly chasing that edge—the moment your tone does something new, something alive. The **Maestro Agena Envelope Filter** isn't your typical effect pedal. It's not about adding layers; it's about interaction. About movement. About making your guitar feel like it's *responding* to you in real time.

This is the kind of pedal that sneaks up on you. One minute you're exploring subtle textures, and the next you're pushing out gritty, percussive funk riffs that sound like your guitar's talking back. It reshapes how you think about rhythm, lead, dynamics—and most of all, **expression**.



## So What Exactly Does It Do?

The Agena is an **envelope filter**, which means it opens and closes a tonal “window” based on how hard you play. Dig in harder and the filter sweeps further; lighten up and it gently responds. You’re not stepping on a wah pedal—you’re using your *hands* to control it.

### THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING.

With **Drive** and **Range** controls to shape the feel and reach of the filter, and a **Hi/Lo switch** to dial in how reactive it is to your playing, you’re in full control of how deep or dramatic you want the response to be.

# Why Should This Matter to You?

If you've ever felt like your tone is too flat, or like you're playing the same licks over and over, the Agena forces you to think differently. It turns your rhythmic attack into a creative tool. Suddenly, your muted funk strums have vocal sweep. Your jazzy leads dip and curve. Your blues phrasing feels... liquid. It's addictive in the best way.

Even for players outside funk or jam styles, this pedal opens the door to new phrasing ideas, percussive layering, or psychedelic ambient effects when paired with delay and reverb.

## Perfect For...

- Players who want to break out of a creative rut
- Live guitarists who need movement without using a pedalboard tap dance
- Funk, fusion, jam, and soul players who love rhythmic tone shaping
- Experimental musicians chasing new textures
- Studio players looking to make rhythm guitar feel like lead

If you've never tried an envelope filter before, this one might just open the door to a whole new language.





Monique Orange

Versatility with Purpose





From a six-year-old taking the stage for the first time to a seasoned performer, teacher, and international tribute artist, **Monique Orange** has spent her life immersed in the performing arts. With a career spanning over two decades, her journey is one of dedication, resilience, and an unwavering passion for expression through music, dance, and theatre.

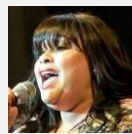
Monique's performance credits stretch from *West Side Story* and industrial theatre to her acclaimed one-woman *Whitney Houston Tribute Show*—both locally and internationally. Equally impressive is her commitment to education.

Holding multiple qualifications in musical theatre, drama, vocals, and dance, Monique has dedicated herself to preparing the next generation of artists with a teaching approach that is as holistic as it is heartfelt.

In this interview, Monique reflects on defining career moments, her belief in versatility as the key to longevity, and how she's shaping confident, multifaceted artists ready to make their mark on the world.



**Monique, your journey in the performing arts began at just 6 years old and has taken you from local stages to international tribute shows. What have been some of the defining moments in your career so far?**



Some of the most defining moments in my career have come at unexpected times. Performing in *West Side Story* early on truly set the tone for the level of commitment and passion I wanted to bring to everything I do.

Touring internationally with tribute shows, particularly my one-woman Whitney Houston tribute, was another standout moment.

Bringing that level of emotion and musicality to audiences around the world was incredibly fulfilling. But equally important have been the smaller, more personal moments with teaching a student who discovers their voice or performing in a community space where you can see the real-time impact of the arts.

Each phase has taught me something new, and I carry those lessons forward in both my teaching and performance work.



**With qualifications in musical theatre, drama, dance, and vocals, you've built a deeply versatile skill set. How has this versatility influenced both your performance work and your teaching approach?**

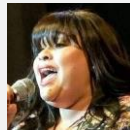


Versatility has been the cornerstone of both my career and my teaching philosophy. In performance, being able to shift between genres whether it's musical theatre, voice-over, industrial theatre, or tribute shows has kept my career dynamic and sustainable. It's allowed me to take on a wide range of roles and connect with diverse audiences.

As an educator, I bring that same mindset into the classroom. I encourage students to embrace every facet of the craft in singing, acting, dancing, and even the technical and entrepreneurial sides of the industry because the more tools they have, the more opportunities they can create for themselves. It's not just about being talented in one area, it's about being adaptable, curious, and open to growth.



**As an educator, you emphasize exposing students to all aspects of the industry from creative to entrepreneurial. What inspired this holistic teaching philosophy, and how do you see it shaping the next generation of performers?**



My own experiences in the industry showed me that talent alone isn't enough.

Understanding how the business works is just as crucial. I wanted to give my students more than just technical training. I wanted to prepare them for real-world scenarios.

That means teaching them how to audition, how to network, how to market themselves, and even how to create their own opportunities. This holistic approach comes from a deep belief that empowerment through knowledge leads to sustainable careers.

I've already seen how this shapes students into confident, multifaceted artists who aren't waiting for opportunities. They're creating them.



*"It's not just about being talented in one area. **It's about being adaptable, curious, and open to growth.**"*

– Monique Orange



**The entertainment industry can be both inspiring and challenging, especially for women. What has your experience been like navigating the space as a woman, and what lessons have stayed with you throughout your journey?**



Navigating the entertainment industry as a woman has come with its challenges. From having to constantly prove yourself to facing expectations about how you should look or act. But those experiences have also made me more resilient, more determined, and more intentional about the work I do.

One of the most important lessons I've learned is the power of authenticity is owning who you are and standing in your truth. I've also learned the value of mentorship and support networks, which is why I place so much importance on being a mentor to young artists.

I want the next generation of women in this industry to know that their voice matters and that they don't have to fit into a mold to be successful.

# Vintage Looks, Modern Soul



**Why the Blackstar DEBUT-30E  
Might Be the Best Amp You Didn't  
Know You Needed**

# LET'S BE HONEST

—**most guitarists have two tones**: the one they chase on stage, and the one they settle for at home. Small amps often mean compromise: thin tone, buzzy gain, and no real *feel*.

But then comes the **Blackstar DEBUT-30E**, and suddenly your living room doesn't sound like practice—it sounds like performance.

Wrapped in a **Cream and Oxblood vintage aesthetic**, the DEBUT-30E doesn't just look like a boutique amp—it **responds like one**, too. But here's the twist: it's not a 50-pound tube monster.

It's a **compact, analogue-based amp** that nails that elusive sweet spot between *inspiration and practicality*.

# WHY

## This Isn't Just a “Practice Amp”

At first glance, you might mistake the DEBUT-30E for a stylish home speaker. But plug in, and you'll be surprised how *alive* it feels. Blackstar's **ISF (Infinite Shape Feature)** lets you shape your EQ from British grit to American sparkle, while the two channels (clean and overdrive) handle anything from mellow blues to crunchy rock.

And because the gain structure is fully analogue—not digital—you feel a natural sag and bloom that's rare in this price range.

It also features a **stereo delay** built right in, adding depth and ambience without needing a pedalboard. This is the kind of amp that makes you want to *play longer, experiment more, and record right away*.

# Blackst

## Who Is It Really For?

- **Bedroom shredders** who want tone without annoying the neighbors
- **Recording artists** needing a portable, mic-able amp with real tone
- **Vintage lovers** who want boutique looks without boutique pricing
- **Students and hobbyists** who care about sound and style equally
- **Minimalist guitarists** who want one amp that looks good in any room and sounds good with any guitar

This is the amp you leave out because it looks gorgeous—and pick up your guitar more often because it **actually sounds inspiring**.



Siphesihle  
Mabuntane

From Ballet to Basslines





Siphesihle Mabuntane's artistic journey is one of unexpected turns, bold choices, and creative discovery. Starting out in ballet as a young performer, her love for movement eventually transformed into a passion for music production and bass guitar—where rhythm, flow, and expression take on a whole new form.

After moving to Cape Town and stumbling upon M&M Music Academy, Siphesihle found the encouragement and training she needed to dive headfirst into a new chapter. Originally set on a career in forensic pathology, her path shifted toward sound design, studio production, and performance—a move that revealed her natural gift for creating music from the inside out.

Today, Siphesihle is part of a rising generation of female producers redefining what it means to shape sound from behind the scenes. Her love for the process—from mixing and mastering to live performance—shows in every track she touches.

In this interview, she shares how ballet shaped her stage presence, how M&M Music Academy opened a new world of opportunity, and what it means to find your voice in a space where female producers are finally getting the spotlight they deserve.



**Siphesihle Mabuntane, your journey started with ballet at a young age and eventually led you to music production and bass guitar. How did your early love for performing influence, the way you express yourself through music today?**



I loved being on stage and performing for people. Ballet is a form of dance and even now after all those years, I still love to dance and I try to implement that in the way I perform and make music.



**You discovered M&M Music Academy shortly after moving to Cape Town - what was it about the academy that drew you in, and how has it shaped your growth as both a producer and musician?**



For a very long time during high school, I was so set on studying forensic pathology but unfortunately things did not work out the I wanted them to and after that I did not know what I wanted to do. I was on my way to the local mall for the first time after I had moved to Cape Town and there it was, the M&M Music Academy. My mom then encouraged me to do music, and I started going to for part- time production lessons, which I then decided to join full time.





**MG** **Transitioning from ballet to music production is a big shift - what was that journey like for you creatively, and what have you discovered about yourself along the way?**



I haven't really done ballet in a very long time. I have always been interested in the behind-the-scenes process of making music and not just the final product. At the end of the day all the songs that you hear on radio/streaming platforms had to go through a mixing and mastering process and that is what I enjoy the most. I learned that a lot of things that goes into than people realise.

**MG** **As a young woman stepping into the music production space, what have been some of the challenges or breakthroughs you've experienced in finding your voice and sound?**



Before there weren't many female music producers but as time and the industry evolved, we are seeing more female DJs/ music producers making it in the game, so I feel like I have them to look up to. It's just all about putting in the work and not letting the negative comments get to you because there will always be someone who will be negative.

*“It’s just about putting in the work and **not letting the negative comments get to you** —because there will always be someone who will be **negative.**”*

– Siphesihle Mabuntane



# Nord Electro 6D 61

**There's something magnetic about a Nord keyboard. The bold red shell alone turns heads on stage, but it's what lies beneath that keeps serious players coming back.**

The **Nord Electro 6D 61** is no exception—it's a powerhouse stage keyboard that manages to merge *vintage soul, modern workflow*, and *lightweight practicality* into one incredibly playable instrument.

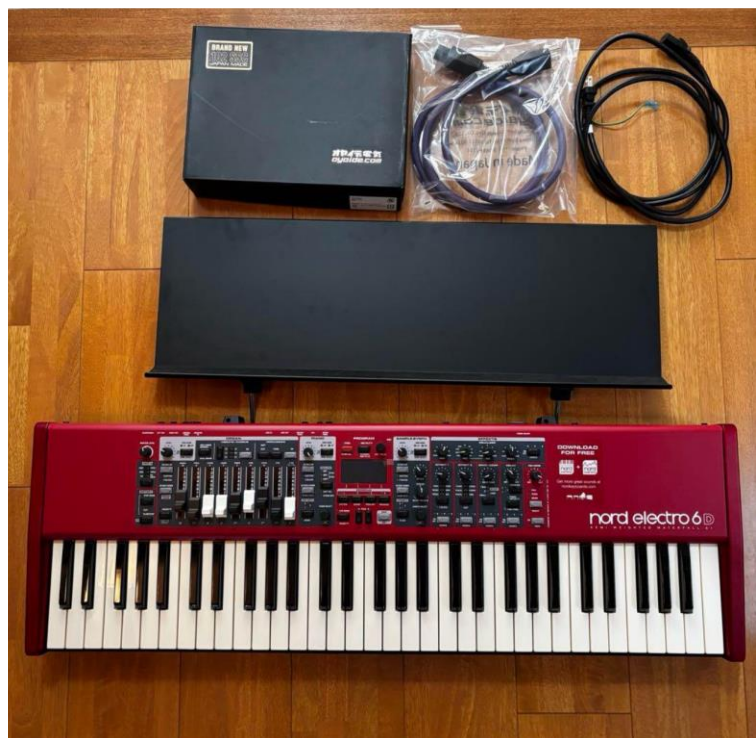
For any keyboardist who's split time between electric pianos, drawbar organs, and synths, the Electro 6D is like finding your voice in three different languages.

The 61-key semi-weighted waterfall keybed feels beautifully responsive—perfect for organ glides, Wurlitzer riffs, and expressive Rhodes runs. But unlike many other keyboards trying to do it all, this one doesn't feel like it's trying—it just *is*.

The real joy of the Electro 6D lies in how it lets you move through sounds and layers with speed and intention. With three independent sound sections—piano, organ, and sample synth—you can layer, split, and switch without getting buried in menus or screens. The intuitive panel layout makes sense in the heat of a live set. You don't scroll—you play.

And the sounds? Lush, responsive, and genuinely musical. The Nord Piano Library offers rich grand and upright tones, while the organ engine—featuring B3, Vox, and Farfisa models—feels as close to the real deal as you'll get without hauling a Leslie. The sample synth section brings in strings, brass, and ambient textures that elevate your set without overcomplicating your setup.

This is a keyboard designed by people who know performance—players who understand that *feel* matters as much as function. And at just over 9 kg, the 6D 61 is light enough to carry to rehearsals, gigs, and recording sessions without breaking your back or your spirit.



For gigging musicians, church players, studio sessionists, or anyone who's ever wanted to have a vintage collection under their fingers without a van full of gear, the Nord Electro 6D 61 delivers. It's a classic made for modern players—and once you sit down with it, you'll wonder how you ever played without it.





Zenande  
Sikhutshwa

Strength in Every Note



With a voice that carries both grace and grit, **Zenande Sikhutshwa**, known as “Nandie,” is a rising star whose story is as inspiring as her sound. Born in the Free State and singing since the age of four, Nandie’s talent was discovered early—but her journey has been anything but ordinary.

Living with glaucoma and legally blind, she has never let her condition define her. Instead, she’s used it as fuel to drive her passion, turning every performance into a powerful statement of purpose and resilience.

Now a full-time student at **M&M Music Academy**, Nandie is flourishing. Her performances are soul-stirring and deeply emotive, influenced by the storytelling of legends like Whitney Houston and Dolly Parton. Whether singing solo or performing with a full band, she brings her whole self to the stage—voice, heart, and spirit.

In this exclusive interview, Nandie opens up about **finding strength through music**, discovering her identity as a vocalist, and how M&M Music Academy helped her reconnect with purpose and possibility.



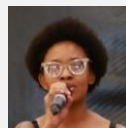
**Zenande, your journey began at just four years old and has grown into a powerful story of talent and perseverance. How has living with glaucoma shaped your relationship with music and performance?**




Living with glaucoma presents many challenges and limitations, but music has always made me feel as though I can overcome any obstacle thrown my way. It creates a space where I can express myself freely—without judgment or anxiety. Through music, my disability doesn’t stand in the way of my passion and craft. In fact, it has helped me discover my true calling.



**Your voice is described as both timeless and soul-stirring. Which artists have most influenced your sound, and how do you bring your own identity into every performance?**



Growing up, my father and I went on countless road trips, and during those journeys, we listened to Whitney Houston and Dolly Parton. I naturally fell in love with their music and voices. Although they’re different artists, they share one key trait that deeply resonates with me: they are phenomenal storytellers. What I admire most is how their music—especially the depth of their lyricism—connects with audiences on an emotional and spiritual level.



That's what I strive for in all my performances. Whenever I sing, I want the audience to feel a genuine connection with me through the song.



**MG** **Being a full-time music student and working with live bands and artists must be incredibly enriching. How has your training at M&M Music Academy helped you grow both technically and personally as a vocalist?**



Fun fact: joining M&M Music Academy wasn't part of the plan. It came into my life at a time when I had lost hope of ever finding my place or purpose in the world.

Working with people in the music industry has been incredibly insightful. I've always known I had a voice, but being at M&M has helped me uncover the full extent of my vocal abilities. The opportunity to perform has given me space to express myself as an artist and the freedom to truly discover who I am.

#### **AT M&M, COLLABORATION IS KEY.**

It's taught me to share the stage with other artists and to embrace the beauty of collective performance. We're encouraged to explore various music genres, which has helped me grow into a versatile artist.

**MG** **As a young woman navigating the music industry while overcoming personal challenges, what have been some of your biggest lessons or defining moments so far?**



One of my biggest lessons has been learning to share the stage with others—especially when performing as part of a band. This experience has taught me the importance of communication and being a better listener.

I've grown and learned so much with my fellow students over the past few months, and I'm excited to continue working with more people, gaining knowledge, and evolving as an artist.

***“Through music, my disability doesn't stand in the way of my passion and craft. In fact, it has helped me discover my true calling.”***

– Zenande “Nandie” Sikhutshwa



# FAREWELL TO THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS

## A Tribute to Ozzy Osbourne

A true icon, trailblazer, and survivor, Ozzy's legacy transcends decades, genres, and generations. As the world prepares to say goodbye to the Prince of Darkness and he steps away from the stage for good, we pay tribute to the man who changed the sound—and soul—of rock forever.

# THE VOICE That Launched a Movement

Born **John Michael Osbourne** in Birmingham, England, Ozzy rose from humble beginnings to become the voice of a revolution.

As the frontman of **Black Sabbath**, he didn't just help create heavy metal—he *defined* it.

With their self-titled debut in 1970, Sabbath introduced a dark, brooding sound that broke all the rules and rewrote what rock music could be. Tracks like *Paranoid*, *War Pigs*, and *Iron Man* didn't just shake the charts—they shook the very foundations of popular music.

Ozzy's haunting vocals, unpredictable stage presence, and raw vulnerability made him an enigma. He sang with pain, with power, and with an otherworldly energy that couldn't be replicated. His voice became the battle cry of outcasts, misfits, and dreamers all over the world.





# Reinvention and Resilience

After parting ways with Sabbath in 1979, many thought Ozzy's career would fade into darkness. Instead, he lit a fire that burned even brighter.

His solo career produced timeless albums like *Blizzard of Ozz*, *Diary of a Madman*, and *No More Tears*. With hits like *Crazy Train* and *Mr. Crowley*, he proved not only that he could stand on his own, but that he could dominate.

Behind the scenes, Ozzy's life was a storm of substance abuse, personal loss, and public controversy. But through it all, he remained a figure of resilience. His marriage to **Sharon Osbourne** became a cornerstone of his survival—and a public spectacle of its own.

Together, they redefined celebrity culture, inviting millions into their chaotic, hilarious, and deeply human family life with *The Osbournes*, one of the earliest and most influential reality TV shows.

# A Legacy Carved in Stone (and Ink and Fire)

Ozzy is more than a singer—he's a symbol. A symbol of rebellion, of enduring spirit, and of unapologetic individuality. His music inspired generations of artists, from metal giants to punk rebels and even pop stars.

His bat-biting antics, devil-may-care attitude, and surprising emotional depth made him a paradox: terrifying and tender, unhinged and utterly beloved.

He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with Black Sabbath, received the Global Icon Award at the MTV Europe Music Awards, and earned a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

But no accolade captures what Ozzy means to the people who grew up with his music in their headphones and his message in their hearts.





# Goodbye, Ozzy—But Never Forgotten

Now, with his health declining and his touring days behind him, Ozzy Osbourne has made the difficult decision to step away from the stage. It's a farewell not just to the man, but to an era.

Yet even as the final curtain falls, Ozzy's voice will never stop echoing. His music will rage on in headphones, on car stereos, at festivals, and in the hearts of those who found themselves in his madness.

# To Ozzy


thank you for the chaos. Thank you for the anthems. Thank you for reminding us that darkness can be beautiful, that pain can be powerful, and that no matter how many times life knocks you down—**you can still get back up and scream.**



Thank You To All Of Our Wonderful Women

**MG**

*Pioneer Dj*

 AlphaTheta



audio-technica


dBTechnologies



MIDAS



SONANCE  
BEYOND SOUND

 Turbosound®



ENOVA

TANNOY

LAB.GRUPPEN



SOUND TOWN

Blackstar®  
AMPLIFICATION

Carry-on

Epiphone

Gibson®

KRAMER  
Guitars

Proudly brought to you by

proaudio

Are you mixing with the right company?